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**How to Spell Relief?** Recent disclosures that U.S. military aircraft have ferried relief supplies from private groups to Central America have caused dissension within the government agencies and charitable groups involved.

The National Security Council supports the use of military transports, while State Department and Pentagon officials are afraid it may break the law. Military transport of privately provided relief supplies is prohibited except in cases of extreme natural disasters, such as earthquakes or floods.

Some of the private relief agencies are concerned that the use of military aircraft will cause their humanitarian efforts to be regarded with suspicion. They also fear that dependence on the military will mean that relief supplies will go only to those who are politically "in" with the administration, instead of to all who need them.

A government source told my associate John Dillon that at least one shipment was paid for by the CIA. This gave the Pentagon a loophole, the source said, because "the agency paying for it has to certify" that the shipment is legal.